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the editor, nevertheless, has discarded them, and introduced in their place the term "initial message." As a consequence, there are two "initial" messages to the Eighteenth and to the Twentieth Legislature, and in the case of the called session of 1879 there is an "initial message," followed by three "supplemental" messages.

In the opinion of the reviewer, the index is constructed without judgment, is poorly arranged, and is very incomplete. What reason is there for indexing under "Debt, public," and "Public debt"—"Expenditure, public," "Public expenditures," and "State's expenditures"—Health officer, State," "Public health," and "State Health Officer," data that should be grouped under one head in each case. In some instances the information indexed has been misinterpreted; for example, Alta Vista is said to have been the former name of Prairie View Normal, and Thomas S. Gathright is called the president of this school.

The publication of its archives is a public duty which Texas has too long neglected. Such work, when done, should conform to the highest standards.

E. W. WINKLER.

San Antonio de Béxar: Historical, Traditional, Legendary. By Mrs. S. J. Wright. (Austin, Texas, 1916.)

This volume is the work of Mrs. S. J. Wright, Past-President of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, and at present Chairman of the History Committee of the same organization. It is intended to present in brief and popular form the chief facts in the history of San Antonio. As the title indicates, the author does not limit her narration to strict historical facts, but includes many romantic episodes which have been handed down through tradition, but hitherto inaccessible to the busy men or women, who have no time to search them out for themselves. The first ten chapters contain a running summary of the history of early Texas and San Antonio from the first occupation by Spain down to their absorption in the Union. For the Spanish period, Mrs. Wright has followed closely the work of Clark and Bolton. By so doing she has kept her narrative comparatively free from the blunders which have hitherto disfigured most popular historical sketches on early Texas history. Still later research than was accessible to

Mrs. Wright, however, has changed some of the facts which she has gleaned from the two specialists cited above. On the whole, however, her summary is well written, and gives the essential facts correctly. An interesting portion of the book consists of various legends collected in regard to San Antonio, and a description of the missions as they exist today. The general reader interested in early San Antonio history will find much of value in Mrs. Wright's book.

W. E. D.

A Brief History of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, by Frank Cushman Pierce (Menasha, Wisconsin. 1917. Pp. 200, illustrated, maps). Mr. Pierce's long residence at Brownsville, since 1859, and his legal practice on both sides of the Rio Grande have furnished the information for this little book. Events on both sides of the line fittingly find a place in his survey. The most interesting, as well as the most useful portion of the book is that which sketches the development of the troubles in Mexico which led to the recent movement of United States troops to the border. His estimate of the Diaz régime is not novel, but it is very sound: "Experience had taught that there was but one way to rule a people of whom 80 per cent were ignorant, uneducated, barbarians, and that was with the iron hand. Under him the country soon took place among the nations of the world. . . . In fact, during the thirty-one years in which Don Porfirio administered the affairs of the Republic, every change which took place was destined to the uplifting of his people."

Chapter XI reviews the service of the Texas Rangers in the Brownsville region; and Chapter XIII constitutes a brief guide to the towns within a radius of a hundred miles of Brownsville.

Hyphenated, by August Anderson (published by the author [Austin, 1916], is the fanciful title of what appears to be a faithful biographical sketch of S. M. Swenson during his career in Texas. While the author has chosen to tell his story in the guise of historical fiction, that is for the purpose of "putting it over." He thoroughly appreciates his obligations as a biographer, and his facts are reliable. The book is a welcome contribution